and provided further that a person may be designated as the plan sponsor only if the person is one of the persons maintaining the plan (for example, one of the employers that is maintaining the plan with one or more other employers or employee organizations); or

(viii) In the case of a plan, the sponsor of which is not described in paragraph (g)(2)(i) through (g)(2)(vi) of this section, and for which no identification or designation of a plan sponsor has been made under paragraph (g)(2)(i)(vii) of this section, each employer that maintains the plan (with respect to employees of that employer), each employee organization that maintains the plan (with respect to members of that employee organization), and each board of trustees, cooperative or association that maintains the plan.

(3) *Exception.* A plan sponsor is not required to include as part of a single group health plan as determined under paragraph (g)(1) of this section any group health plan that consists solely of excepted benefits as defined by section 2791(c) of the PHS Act, that only provides benefits related to prescription drugs, or that is a health reimbursement arrangement, health savings account, or health flexible spending arrangement.

(4) *Procedures for counting covered lives for multiple group health plans treated as a single group health plan.* The rules in this paragraph (g)(4) govern the determination of the average number of covered lives in a benefit year for any set of multiple self-insured group health plans or health insurance plans (or a combination of one or more self-insured group health plans and one or more health insurance plans) that are treated as a single group health plan under paragraph (g)(1) of this section.

(i) *Multiple group health plans including an insured plan.* If at least one of the multiple plans is an insured plan, the average number of covered lives of reinsurance contribution enrollees must be calculated using one of the methods specified in either paragraph (d)(1) or paragraph (d)(2) of this section, applied across the multiple plans as a whole. The following information must be determined by the plan sponsor and reported to HHS, in a manner and timeframe specified by HHS:

(A) The average number of covered lives calculated;

(B) The counting method used; and

(C) The names of the multiple plans being treated as a single group health plan as determined by the plan sponsor and reported to HHS.

(ii) *Multiple group health plans not including an insured plan.* If each of the multiple plans is a self-insured group health plan, the average number of covered lives of reinsurance contribution enrollees must be calculated using one of the methods specified either in paragraph (e)(1) or paragraph (e)(2) of this section, applied across the multiple plans as a whole. The following information must be determined by the plan sponsor and reported to HHS, in a manner and timeframe specified by HHS:

(A) The average number of covered lives calculated;

(B) The counting method used; and

(C) The names of the multiple plans being treated as a single group health plan as determined by the plan sponsor.

[78 FR 15528, Mar. 11, 2013]

§ 153.410 Requests for reinsurance payment.

(a) *General requirement.* An issuer of a reinsurance-eligible plan may make a request for payment when that issuer's claims costs for an enrollee of that reinsurance-eligible plan has met the criteria for reinsurance payment set forth in subpart B of this part and the HHS notice of benefit and payment parameters and State notice of benefit and payment parameters for the applicable benefit year, if applicable.

(b) *Manner of request.* An issuer of a reinsurance-eligible plan must make requests for payment in accordance with the requirements of the annual HHS notice of benefit and payment parameters for the applicable benefit year or the State notice of benefit and payment parameters described in subpart B of this part, as applicable.

[77 FR 17248, Mar. 23, 2012, as amended at 78 FR 15530, Mar. 11, 2013]

§ 153.420 Data collection.

(a) *Data requirement.* To be eligible for reinsurance payments, an issuer of

a reinsurance-eligible plan must submit or make accessible all required reinsurance data in accordance with the reinsurance data collection approach established by the State, or by HHS on behalf of the State.

(b) *Deadline for submission of data.* An issuer of a reinsurance-eligible plan must submit or make accessible data to be considered for reinsurance payments for the applicable benefit year by April 30 of the year following the end of the applicable benefit year.

[78 FR 15530, Mar. 11, 2013]

Subpart F—Health Insurance Issuer Standards Related to the Risk Corridors Program

§ 153.500 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this subpart:

Administrative costs mean, with respect to a QHP, total non-claims costs incurred by the QHP issuer for the QHP, including taxes and regulatory fees.

After-tax premiums earned mean, with respect to a QHP, premiums earned with respect to the QHP minus taxes and regulatory fees.

Allowable administrative costs mean, with respect to a QHP, the sum of administrative costs of the QHP, other than taxes and regulatory fees, plus profits earned by the QHP, which sum is limited to 20 percent of after-tax premiums earned with respect to the QHP (including any premium tax credit under any governmental program), plus taxes and regulatory fees.

Allowable costs means, with respect to a QHP, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the sum of incurred claims within the meaning of §158.140 of this subchapter (including adjustments for any direct and indirect remuneration), expenditures by the QHP issuer for the QHP for activities that improve health care quality as set forth in §158.150 of this subchapter, expenditures by the QHP issuer for the QHP related to health information technology and meaningful use requirements as set forth in §158.151 of this subchapter, and the adjustments set forth in §153.530(b); in each case for all of the QHP issuer's non-grandfathered health plans in a market within a State, allocated to the QHP based on premiums earned.

Charge means the flow of funds from QHP issuers to HHS.

Direct and indirect remuneration means prescription drug rebates received by a QHP issuer within the meaning of §158.140(b)(1)(i) of this subchapter.

Payment means the flow of funds from HHS to QHP issuers.

Premiums earned mean, with respect to a QHP, all monies paid by or for enrollees with respect to that plan as a condition of receiving coverage, including any fees or other contributions paid by or for enrollees, within the meaning of §158.130 of this subchapter.

Profits mean, with respect to a QHP, the greater of:

(1) Three percent of after-tax premiums earned, and

(2) Premiums earned of the QHP minus the sum of allowable costs and administrative costs of the QHP.

Qualified health plan or *QHP* means, with respect to the risk corridors program only —

(1) A qualified health plan, as defined at §155.20 of this subchapter;

(2) A health plan offered outside the Exchange by an issuer that is the same plan as a qualified health plan, as defined at §155.20 of this subchapter, offered through the Exchange by the issuer. To be the same plan as a qualified health plan (as defined at §155.20 of this subchapter) means that the health plan offered outside the Exchange has identical benefits, premium, cost-sharing structure, provider network, and service area as the qualified health plan (as defined at §155.20 of this subchapter); or

(3) A health plan offered outside the Exchange that is substantially the same as a qualified health plan, as defined at §155.20 of this subchapter, offered through the Exchange by the issuer. To be substantially the same as a qualified health plan (as defined at §155.20 of this subchapter) means that the health plan meets the criteria set forth in paragraph (2) of this definition with respect to the qualified health plan, except that its benefits, premium, cost-sharing structure, and provider network may differ from those of the qualified health plan (as defined at